

On the Go Newsletter

June 2010

News & Studies

Chair's Corner: A Note from ICLA Chair Sandra Sanchez Seeking Nominees for Outstanding Latino Educational Leader

The Commission on Latino Affairs is seeking nominees to highlight the contributions of Latinos (including immigrants) to their communities. The first area we would like to highlight is Education. A different area of interest will be highlighted every three months.

If you know of any Latino/Latina who has made significant contributions (those that go beyond the norm) in the area of education to their school, community, city or the state, please submit his/her name to Melissa Esquivel with a short story of the contributions of your nominee.

We will post the candidates in our website so community members will be able to vote for the candidate that in their opinion is most deserving of such recognition. The profile of the winner will be highlighted in a section of our website for three months.

For more details, please contact Melissa Esquivel at melissa.esquivel@iowa.gov.
- Sandra Sanchez, ICLA Chair

- [North Carolina Crime-stopper Faces Deportation](#)
- [Arizona Law on Immigration Puts Police in Tight Spot](#)
- [Citizenship Law Fans Women's Fears in Arizona](#)
- [National Council of La Raza Study: Latino Child Well-Being in Numbers and Trends](#)
- [Obama administration offers \\$1.3 billion to settle USDA discrimination case](#)
- [Context Matters: Latino Immigrant Civic Engagement in 9 U.S. Cities](#)
- [Facing Deportation for Stopping Crime](#)

Latino Affairs Statewide Directory

The Office of Latino Affairs and the Iowa Commission on Latino Affairs are proud to provide this Statewide Directory.

The Latino Affairs Statewide Directory was created to assist the Latino community and state in accessing a variety of services, resources and information. This directory identifies agencies, organizations, businesses and non-profits that assist or would like to be of greater service to the Latino community.

To find listed services closest to you, click on your District on the [map](#) found on the Latino Affairs website.

In order to be included in the Directory, organizations have completed a [Latino Affairs Directory Form](#). If you would like to be added to this directory, please complete the Directory Form and submit it to the Office of Latino Affairs.

Thanks to all the organizations and individuals who participate in and/or use the Directory. We look forward to expanding the Directory as Iowa's Latino community grows.

Name Change for Latino Affairs

The Office of Latino Affairs, formerly the Division of Latino Affairs, is a proud partner in the strategic reorganization of the Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR). Reorganized in spring 2010, DHR's new mission is to ensure basic rights, freedoms, and opportunities for all by empowering underrepresented Iowans and eliminating economic, social, and cultural barriers.

In order to more effectively and efficiently serve our customers, the Office of Latino Affairs has combined its administrative functions with the other population-specific Offices within our newly created Division of Community Advocacy and Services at DHR. Iowans should expect to receive the same or a better level of culturally responsive services from the Office under our new structure.

For more information about our Office or about reorganization, please contact:

Melissa Esquivel, Executive Officer of the Office of Latino Affairs

Upcoming Community Events

- Cultural Competence for the Seasoned Social Worker Training, June 11, 1-4PM
- LUNA Domestic Violence Training, June 11-13
- Reducing Adolescent Relationship Violence, June 16, 1:30-5PM
- Entrenamiento de Prevención del Abuso Sexual de Niños, June 16, 5:30-8PM
- Employing Immigrant Workers Workshop, June 17
- Iowa Immigration Education Coalition, Benefit and Forum: What Are the Economics of Immigration Reform?, June 17
- Breastfeeding Support Group, June 17, Monthly
- Link Associates Pizza Hut Fundraiser, June 18
- Iowa Department of Education: Safe, Caring, Healthy Learning Environments Workshops, June 18-19
- Gateway Dance Theater International Dinner, June 20
- What's New in Mental Health Services for Older Iowans?, June 22, 10AM-4PM
- Cedar Rapids Fair Housing Conference, June 24-26
- Information Sessions for DMACC's G2C (Gateway to College) Program for Des Moines Dropouts, June 26 and July 16. Apply for scholarships to attend high school and earn college credit at the same time. Call 515-697-7847 or email g2c@dmacc.edu for details.
- Our Budget, Our Economy Town Hall Meeting, June 26, 10:30AM-5PM
- Clases de Computación Básica Para Adultos (Caridades Católicas), July 6 (Weekly), 6-8PM
- Mercy Medical Center Basic Medical Interpreter Training, July 30-August 1
- Iowa Culture and Language Conference, November 1-3, 9AM-4PM

Latino Focus Group Participants Needed

Researchers at the University of Iowa are conducting a research study to collect information on how medical researchers and doctors should notify people of possible unexpected findings from a genetic test (this is also called an incidental finding). Kim Piper, the Iowa Department of Health Coordinator, is working with Dr. Janet Williams and Dr. Christian Simon at the University of Iowa to better understand what information people would want to know about possible unexpected findings from genetic test.

These researchers would like to talk with members of the Latino community about their views on how this information should be handled. They would like to schedule a focus group with no more than 8 people. Once the group has been established, the researchers will set a date and time for the group to meet.

The focus group meeting will last two hours and participants will receive a \$25.00 gift card to any Target store for their time and effort. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Joan Laing, the project coordinator, at joan-laing@uiowa.edu or 319-335-8640.

Guide to Arizona's New Immigration Law

What You Need to Know about the New Law and How It Can Impact Your State

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer met with President Obama to discuss border security and Arizona's controversial new immigration law SB 1070. Barely a month after passage of SB 1070, both opponents and proponents are attempting to assess the impact the new law may have on residents of Arizona-citizens and immigrants alike. At the same time, approximately 22 states (at last count) are considering similar legislation. Multiple lawsuits have been filed challenging the constitutionality of the law, opponents are mounting a boycott, and numerous polls show that a majority of the public both supports the Arizona law and comprehensive immigration reform.

The Immigration Policy Center has developed a [Q&A Guide to Arizona's New Immigration Law](#). This guide provides key answers to basic questions about Arizona's law - from the substance of the law and myths surrounding it to the legal and fiscal implications. As other states contemplate similar legislation, knowing the answers to basic questions about Arizona's law will prove to be critically important in furthering the discussion.

To view the guide in its entirety see:

[Q&A Guide to Arizona's New Immigration Law](#) (IPC Special Report, June 2, 2010)

More Than Just Access: Undocumented Students Navigating the Postsecondary Terrain

Over the last few years, increasing numbers of undocumented students have made their way through to two- and four-year colleges and universities. The increased matriculation rates of these students have been aided by several processes: 1) increases in unauthorized settlement in the late 1980s and 1990s, dramatically increasing the numbers of undocumented children coming of age in the United States (Gonzales 2007; Massey et al 2002; Passel and Cohn 2009); 2) in-state tuition laws assisting undocumented students in certain states to offset higher out-of-state tuition fees (Olivas 2007; Rincon 2008); and 3) the increase in community efforts by students and counselors, bringing awareness to students and families of their rights to go to college (Gonzales 2008; McGray 2007; Rincon 2008; Seif 2006). However, as the volume of undocumented youth matriculating into colleges and universities increases, on campus new questions arise as to their specific rights. To read the complete article, click [here](#).

Latino Heritage Festival Presents New Website

The Latino Heritage Festival has released its new website: www.latinoheritagefestival.org
The site has a new look and more features—be sure to save it to your favorites!

El Centro in Waterloo Services are Moving

Where? YWCA

425 Lafayette St (Corner of Park and Lafayette)

Waterloo, Iowa

(319) 234-7589

When? July 1, 2010

Why? To continue offering important services and referrals FREE to Latinos:

- information
- translation and interpretation
- help with jobs, school, home, unemployment, social services, immigration, etc.

Look for the “YWCA Latino Services” at the YWCA beginning July 1st.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to assist Latino families in our community!

For Spanish flyer, click [here](#).



Resources

- [“Text Baby” Developed by CDC for Expecting Parents](#)
- [Information on the Iowa Department of Education Summer Food Service Program](#)
- [Extension en Español](#)
- [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [COBRA Assistance: A Lifeline for America's Unemployed](#)
- [Health Coverage for Young Adults: Health Reform Will Soon Allow You to Stay on Your Parent's Health Plan](#)
- [Moving toward Health Equity: Health Reform Creates a Foundation for Eliminating Disparities](#)
- [Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: Key Health Equity Provisions](#)

MHPC Advisory Applicants Needed

The Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC) is an advisory body to the State Mental Health Authority within the Iowa Department of Human Services.

The activities of the Council are intended to help support the creation and expansion of comprehensive, community-based systems of care for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance in Iowa.

The key duties of membership are:

- To review the State Mental Health Block Grant Plan and make recommendations.
- To serve as an advocate for adults with a serious mental illness, children with a serious emotional disturbance, and other individuals with mental illnesses.
- To monitor, review, and evaluate, not less than once each year, the allocation and adequacy of mental health services within the State.

Membership requires active involvement. The full Council meets six times a year, and members also participate in committee and workgroup activities to carry out the work of the Council. Meeting stipends and travel expense reimbursements are available to help support the costs of participation.

Representation on the Council is specific by federal law and includes:

- Adult consumers
- Parents, guardians, or caretakers of children with serious emotional disturbance
- Family members of adults with serious mental illness
- Public or private agencies concerned with the planning or operation of mental health services in Iowa
- Persons interested in advocating for adults or children with mental health concerns
- Persons designated to represent State agencies

Currently the Council has openings for an adult consumer and a family member of an adult with serious mental illness. Applications for any of the membership categories are accepted at any time and will be retained and reviewed whenever openings for new members become available.

For more information or to request a membership application, please contact Connie B. Fanselow at cfansel@dhs.state.ia.us or 515-242-6036.

Getting the Most Out of Your Call the USCIS

Do you ever get frustrated when calling the USCIS National Customer Service Center? Maybe this site will help. Below is a link to the USCIS' Ombudsman section of the DHS website. A particular section of this website is titled “Getting the Most Out of Your Call to the USCIS National Customer Service Center” and it has some good information to check before calling the Customer Service Center.

http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/gc_1221837986181.shtm

Iowa Office of Latino Affairs
Lucas State Building
321 E 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Office of Latino Affairs: On the Go newsletter is sent monthly with up-to-date information on the agency, activities and upcoming events to keep our constituents informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

The Office of Latino Affairs is legislatively mandated to promote and advocate for Iowa Latinos.

Classes Offered

- Clases de Nutrición en Español in Des Moines
- Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Classes in Waterloo
- Adult English Language Learners Classes offered at Carver Community School in Des Moines
- Spanish Parenting Classes in Des Moines
- New Iowan Center in Des Moines (Free Classes in Spanish)
Each computer class will last 2 days and a new class will start every week. On Wednesdays we will teach the basics for getting on the internet, searching for jobs, and opening an email account. On Thursdays we will use Word to create a resume.

The Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault's Women of Color Network (WOCAN) is a statewide network of women from various professional backgrounds working to bring awareness to the specific needs of survivors who are persons of color. It is also our priority to coordinate violence prevention efforts to adults and teens throughout the state. The WOCAN began in 1999 as a response to the lack of culturally appropriate sexual assault services and care for persons of color.

Survivors of sexual assault need support, timely and accurate information, financial resources and counseling to address the effect of the assault. For persons of color, persons whose first language is not English, and those new to this country, there are additional needs for supportive services. It is critical that the collective system of responses are culturally appropriate.

The WOCAN aim to be a working force throughout the state to ensure the provision of such services to survivors of sexual assault.

Services:

- Statewide Directory
- Annual Different Colors of Violence Youth Conference
- Information & Technical Assistance

Contact WOCAN Representatives at 515.244.7424 for more information.

Free Medical Clinic in Des Moines

The Grace United Methodist Church will provide free medical care to individuals each Tuesday evening from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Patients will be served on a first come, first served basis. No appointment is necessary. There will be at least one doctor, two nurses, and one lay person available each Tuesday evening. The Clinic will treat people, provide routine preventative exams, prescribe medicine, and make referrals.

Grace United Methodist Church
3700 Cottage Grove Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311

Iowa Credit Unions

Iowa credit unions are a great resource for the Latino community. Des Moines Metro Credit Union has several bilingual staff and low and no-cost financial products and services to offer. Some of their services include:

- Préstamo LograCrédito
- Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
- Vigo Remittances
- El Poder Es Tuyo
- Checking Accounts

For more information about Des Moines Metro Credit Union, please contact Traci Stiles, business development manager or Alejandro Alaniz, account relationship specialist at 283-4195.

Scholarships

- Latinos Unidos College Scholarship Latinos Unidos of Iowa, Inc. is very proud to grant college scholarships for Latino/Latina students who will attend Iowa institutions. Deadline Application: July 1, 2010
- ICAN Latino Conference Scholarship Scholarship eligibility extends to attendees of the 2010 Iowa Latino Conference that are Iowa high school juniors and seniors attending college within the next two years. Deadline Application: October 1, 2010
- Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do (IES Practice Guide)

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